

PATENT APPLICATION

#3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

NISHIMOTO et al

International Appln. No.: PCT/JP02/13347

Filed: Concurrently herewith

Attorney Dkt. No.: 62533.00015

For: STAIRCASE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
**Attention: PCT DO/EO/US**

June 25, 2004

Sir:

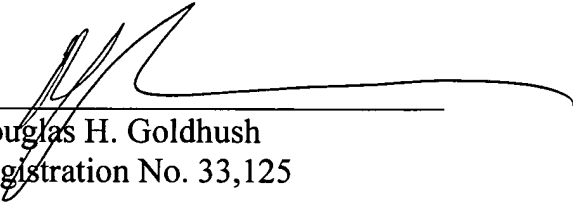
This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted under 37 C.F.R.1.97(b).

The references cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 were cited in the enclosed International Search Report issued by the Japan Patent Office in connection with the above international application. It is understood that the Japan Patent Office has sent a copy of each of the cited references to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. If this is not the case, please contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. Also enclosed is Japanese Examined Utility Model Application No. 4-21389 dated May 15, 1992. The relevance of this non-English language reference is discussed in the present specification.

In view of the above, all requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and all official guidelines pertaining to Information Disclosure Statements have been complied with, and it is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the references and make them of record in this application.

In the event that there are any fees due with respect to the filing of this paper, please charge Counsel's Deposit Account No. 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: PTO-1449 Form  
International Search Report  
1 Reference

FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

62533.00015

SERIAL NO.

New Application

10/500104

## LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT

NISHIMOTO et al

FILING DATE

June 25, 2004

GROUP

Not yet assigned

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA	3,962,838	06/15/76	Cox			
	AB	3,834,491	09/10/74	Pelto			
	AC	4,199,040	04/22/80	Lapeyre			
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO PART.		
	AG	4-179762 A	06/26/92	Japan					
	AH	2000-352122 A	12/19/00	Japan					
	AI	9-268650 A	10/14/97	Japan					
	AJ	4-21389	05/15/92	Japan					
	AK								

## OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AL	Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 59348/1989 (Laid-Open No. 150323/1990), December 26, 1990.
	AM	
	AN	
EXAMINER		DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.